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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

Yoram KAPULNIK et al

Serial No.: 09/762,243

Filed: February 5, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1638

For: METHOD FOR SELECTIVE AND
OPTIONALLY REVERSIBLE
DEGENERATION OF
SOMATIC PLANT TISSUE

Attorney
Docket: 01/21632

Examiner: Anne R. Kubelik

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Action mailed December 4, 2002, which response is being made on or before June 4, 2003, and for which a three months extension fee is due and is being submitted herewith. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 52-53.

Please amend claims 1-2, 7, 9-11, 13-14, 18, 19, 22, 24-26, 28, 31, 33, 35-36, 38 and 50, without prejudice, as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of effecting degeneration of a vegetative plant tissue of a plant, the method comprising the step of expressing in cells of the vegetative plant tissue a heterologous protein capable of binding a plant essential factor, wherein said step of expressing said heterologous protein is effected in a manner so as to lead to depletion of said essential factor such that plant viability is maintained, while at the same time, degeneration of the vegetative plant tissue is effected.